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Construction Bulletin

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Subject: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
Asbestos Training Requirements

Applicability: INFORMATION

1. REFERENCES:

a. Construction Bulletin No. 95-5, subject: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Department of Labor "Occupational Exposure to Asbestos" Final Rule.

b. OSHA, Occupational Exposure to Asbestos, Federal Register/ Vol. 59, No. 153/ Aug 10, 1994, 29 CFR Parts 1910, 1915, and 1926 Final Rule and Federal Register/ Vol. 60, No. 34/ February 21, 1995, 29 CFR Part 1926 (revision to the OSHA's standard effective dates).

c. United States Environmental Protection Agency Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 763 - Asbestos.

d. Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 61, Subpart M.

2. PURPOSE. This Construction Bulletin (CB) highlights OSHA's training requirements published in its revised Construction Standard, 29 CFR Part 1926.1101 which take effect on July 10, 1995 (reference 1b) and the new EPA training requirements for asbestos abatement activities conducted in public and private buildings published in 40 CFR Part 763 (reference 1c). Although not all OSHA or EPA training requirements apply to USACE QA personnel, the information (contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 below) is provided for general knowledge as to its applicability to contractor's workers/employees. In addition, this CB reiterates USACE's policy for training of quality assurance (QA) personnel involved in asbestos abatement projects and their quality assurance responsibilities.

3. BACKGROUND.

a. OSHA updated its asbestos worker protection standards for the construction industry and gave it a new paragraph designation, 1926.1101 (formerly 1926.58). Paragraph k(8) of 29 CFR Part 1926.1101 covers OSHA's training requirements for

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asbestos abatement activities. Pursuant to the new provisions, training must be given to all employees who are actively exposed to asbestos and whose exposure is the result of performing class I through IV work (see enclosure for definitions), or who install new asbestos products. OSHA's training requirements are based upon employees/workers functions and responsibilities. None of the described responsibilities match those of USACE QA personnel in performing their typical QA function.

b. A major expansion of OSHA's training requirements covers curriculum method and length of training. Paragraphs (k)(8)(i)-(v) cover curricula and length of course requirements which mainly follow the EPA's Model Accreditation Plan (MAP) pursuant to reference 1c. Previously, OSHA only required that certain topics be covered in the training program.

c. The Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Reauthorization Act (ASHARA), signed into law November 28, 1990, included an amendment to the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which required that EPA revise the MAP to extend accreditation requirements to include persons performing asbestos-related work in public and commercial buildings. In February 1994, EPA published an interim rule updating the MAP. Under the revisions, the length of certain courses has been increased and more "hands-on" training has been required. Also, in addition to schools, the MAP now applies to work in public and commercial buildings. The EPA's MAP asbestos training includes five primary disciplines that require training accreditation. These disciplines are: Inspector, Management Planner, Project Designer, Contractor/Supervisors, and Worker. Several EPA-approved State Programs have developed MAP asbestos training requirements more stringent than those of the EPA.

d. In addition to OSHA and EPA AHERA training, EPA has another asbestos related training requirement in their National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) at 40 CFR Par 61 Subpart M (see reference 1d). This training requirement applies to at least one on-site representative (such as a foreman) for demolition and renovation activities that involve the removal, handling or disturbance of regulated asbestos containing material (RACM). EPA has stated that personnel who have completed the "Contractor/Supervisors" MAP asbestos training course already satisfy this NESHAP asbestos training requirement (refer to the Federal Register 12 September 1991, page 46380).

e. The specific EPA MAP asbestos training course for "Contractor/Supervisors" was found to be the most suitable course that fit USACE QA personnel. This was the basis for USACE's

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policy for training of quality assurance (QA) personnel involved in asbestos abatement projects, as reiterated in paragraph 5 below.

4. OSHA TRAINING REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO 29 CFR 1926.1101.

a. For employees performing class I and II work, employers must provide employees with a training course which is the equivalent in curriculum, training method and length to the EPA MAP "Worker" training course (4-day training including 14 hours of hands-on training). Refer to reference 1c for detailed information on EPA's MAP training requirements.

b. Employees performing class III work must be given 16 hours of training equivalent in content and length to the EPA's 16 hour operations and maintenance course (as described in 40 CFR 763.92). Employees performing class IV work only must receive at least 2 hours awareness training.

c. In addition to the requirements of paragraph 4a above, OSHA requires that employers ensure that each employee performing class I and class II work is informed of several health and safety issues. These are described in paragraph (k)(8)(vi) of reference 1b.

5. USACE's POLICY ON TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR USACE PERSONNEL.

a. USACE's policy requires that QA personnel performing QA functions on asbestos abatement activities shall receive the "Contractor/Supervisors" training course. This requires the completion of at least a 5-day training course which meets the requirements of 40 CFR Part 763 Appendix C to Subpart E for the category "Contractor/Supervisors" and the annual refresher course. This training shall adequately address the following topics:

(1) the physical characteristics of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials;

(2) potential health effects related to asbestos exposure;

(3) employee personal protective equipment;

(4) state-of-the-art work practices;

(5) personal hygiene;

(6) additional safety hazards;

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- (7) medical monitoring;
- (8) air monitoring;
- (9) relevant federal, state, and local regulatory requirements, procedures, and standards;
- (10) respiratory protection programs and medical monitoring programs;
- (11) recordkeeping for asbestos abatement projects;
- (12) supervisory techniques for asbestos abatement activities;
- (13) contract specifications; and
- (14) course review.

b. The state's asbestos related training requirements must be verified (by the district safety and training offices) to determine their applicability to USACE QA personnel and whether their "Contractor/Supervisors" training satisfies such requirements. If the state has a more stringent EPA-approved MAP "Contractor/Supervisors" course then, the state training course will be completed instead of the EPA "Contractor/Supervisors" training course.

c. Huntsville Division has no asbestos training courses. However, reference 1c above, provides information on EPA-approved MAP asbestos training courses. To obtain a free listing of training providers in your state (or nationally) which includes the address, POC, phone number, and type of course, call the EPA Contractor, Vista Computer Services at (800) 462-6706. The listing is updated quarterly. For additional information, consult your training officer, library, safety and occupational health office, local EPA or OSHA office. Asbestos related reference material may be obtained by calling the toll-free EPA hotline at (800)368-5888.

6. QUALITY ASSURANCE RESPONSIBILITIES. Two documents, the "Corps of Engineers Guide Specification CEGS-02080 "Asbestos Abatement" and EP 1110-1-11 "Asbestos Abatement Guideline Detail Sheets" provide comprehensive guidance for asbestos abatement activities. The guide specification requires that, upon completion of the final cleaning, the contractor and the USACE authorized representative conduct a final visual inspection of the cleaned area and document the results of the final cleaning and visual inspection as specified in the Setup Detail Sheet 19.

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EP 1110-1-11 supplements the guide specification and contains detail sheets pertaining to the asbestos abatement process. The requirement that the USACE QA representative conduct a joint inspection of the asbestos work area with the contractor is significant and must be fully implemented. Training is required before a person enters an area where regulated asbestos abatement activities are taking place. This establishes a clear requirement for each field office engaged in asbestos abatement activities to have properly trained QA personnel. In addition, the district's and project specific medical surveillance, personal protective equipment (clothing and respirators) and heat stress prevention requirements must be observed.

7. This CB was coordinated with the following HQUSACE organizations: Office of the Chief Counsel (CECC-C); Safety and Occupational Health Office (CESO-ZA); Environmental Restoration Division (CEMP-RT); Human Resources (CEHR-D); and Operation, Construction and Readiness Division (CECW-OC).

Encl



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DEFINITIONS

1. Class I asbestos work means activities involving the removal of asbestos containing material (ACM) or presumed asbestos containing material (PACM) that is thermal system insulation and surfacing material.

(most Class I work requires use of negative-pressure enclosures. The standard allows other designated proven control systems in limited circumstances for class I work and provides for yet-to-be developed systems. Employers who use new or modified control technology to reduce exposures in Class I asbestos work in construction work must notify OSHA in advance).

2. Class II asbestos work means activities involving removal of other types of ACM such as resilient flooring and roofing ACM.

3. Class III asbestos work means activities involving repair and maintenance where ACM or PACM is disturbed.

4. Class IV asbestos work means custodial activities during which employees contact ACM or PACM as well as activities to clean up waste and debris that contains such material.

ENCLOSURE